



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Merchants Tipped Off

Santa Claus Is Coming To Town

By Michele Lynn

Noe Valley will be a festive place to celebrate the holidays, thanks to the spirited efforts of neighborhood merchants.

In addition to festooning the streetlights with decorations, the Noe Valley Merchants Association has arranged for carolers from neighborhood schools to serenade holiday shoppers along 24th Street on the weekends of Dec. 9-10 and 16-17.

Merchants Association President Harry Aleo says, "In appreciation of the good cheer these students will bring to the neighborhood, the Merchants Association will make a contribution to their schools."

The group will also give away 20 turkeys this holiday season. (You can pick up a free raffle ticket from participating shops throughout the neighborhood.)

Santa will be a frequent visitor to Noe Valley this month. At the request of the Merchants Association, he'll hand out candy canes and pose for photos with neighborhood kids at ye olde Castro Pharmacy storefront, at the corner of 24th and Castro, on Saturdays and Sundays, Dec. 16-17 and Dec. 23-24, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Merchants Association member Jodi Smylie, who owns Noe Valley Jewelry and Gifts at 4089 24th St., says Polaroid snapshots with Santa will be available for \$3, but you are also welcome to bring your own camera. She adds that Santa

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Wearing Our Peace Symbols Proudly

Here's a reindeer's-eye view of the corner of 24th and Noe, presided over by goodwill ambassadors Casi (left) and Jan Buryn. PHOTO BY ED BURYN

Interview with Sculptor Ruth Asawa

Artist Remembers Painful Days of Internment During World War II

Sculptor Ruth Asawa is one of the shining lights in San Francisco's artistic firmament. She moved to Noe Valley in 1961 with her husband Albert Lanier and their six children. Five of her children, as well as eight grandchildren, still live in the neighborhood, and it was Ruth's daughter Addie Lanier who conducted this "oral history" interview with her mother for the *Voice*.

Asawa's sculptures can be seen throughout the Bay Area. They include the playful bronze Mermaid fountain at Ghirardelli Square, the caricature of San Francisco people and landmarks (fashioned in dough) on the steps of the Hyatt Hotel on Union Square, the origami-based steel sculpture in the Buchanan Mall in Japantown, and her trademark tied-wire sculpture on the facade of the Oakland Museum.

She has served on the San Francisco Arts Commission, the California Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

In 1968 Asawa and other Noe Valley artist-mothers founded the Alvarado Arts Workshop at Alvarado School. And

for the past nine years she has concentrated on establishing the arts program at the School of the Arts (SOTA), located in McAfee High School. She is teaching there this semester.

This July Asawa was awarded a sculpture commission by the city of San Jose to design a memorial in honor of the Japanese-Americans interned during World War II. In the following interview, held Oct. 22, she talks about her own internment experience, which took place when she was a teenager. (To better capture the voice of Asawa, the questions have been omitted.)

Ruth Asawa: What's really interesting to most people about my life is how I managed to raise six children and still do my art. I meet people all the time who say, "I'm interested in writing or painting, but I had to give it up because of my children." To place that burden on the children is very bad. The important thing is how you balance the two—your work and raising children.

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Sculptor Ruth Asawa, shown here with granddaughter Aiko Sophia Weverka, says she's glad she chose to keep her artist's studio in her home while raising six children. "If I hadn't spent all those years staying home with my kids and experimenting with materials that children could use, I would never have done the Ghirardelli and Hyatt fountains." PHOTO BY ADDIE LANIER.

Neighbors Nix Mural Project at Buena Vista

By Mark Robinson

When the San Francisco Board of Supervisors approved a package of mural projects at its Nov. 20 meeting, the proposal to put three murals at Noe Valley's Buena Vista Elementary School was conspicuously absent.

The board's action put the official stamp of defeat on the mural project, which had already gotten a thumbs-down from the mayor's office of community development.

The reason the Buena Vista murals did not get funding, according to city officials and arts organizers, was that a group of vocal neighbors opposed the project, which would have included a controversial 30-foot-high mural facing 30th Street.

The school sits on the corner of Noe and 30th streets. The mural proposal involved painting three separate works. Two of them would have been designed by students under the direction of a muralist, then painted on the inside of the walls surrounding the playground, out of sight of the street and residences.

The third mural would have been painted on the south side of the three-story school building, and would have been plainly visible to its Noe Valley neighbors. The theme and design of this outside mural, to be executed by an artist from Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center, were to have been approved by a committee of residents, but the project never got

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Too Much Ho, Ho, Ho? Call for A 'Mistle-Tow'

By Michele Lynn

For many people, celebrating the holidays means breaking open the bubbly or some other alcoholic beverage. Now there are two programs that will help holiday revelers avoid the dangers of drinking and driving.

The City Tow, an automobile towing operation located at 1475 Mission St., will offer a "Mistle-Tow" service on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve to local residents who've had too much to drink. For \$10, a City Tow truck will take a car and driver home.

According to Phil Ball, City Tow's general manager, "Many intoxicated people make the fatal decision to drive instead of taking a taxi home because they don't want to leave their car behind. If you've been drinking, you can call for our Mistle-Tow service, and we'll take both you and your car safely home for about the price of a taxi."

The Mistle-Tow service will be available Dec. 24 and 31 from 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. Call 558-7400 to arrange for a pickup.

Another option for those who are too tipsy to drive is "Home Cab," a service sponsored by a number of organizations including Home Safely San Francisco, St. Mary's Hospital, KSFO/KYA, California Beverage, the Mark Hopkins Hotel, and the Taxicab Association of San Francisco.

Available from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. on Dec. 29, 30 and 31, Home Cab will provide free transportation for intoxicated drivers from any San Francisco bar or restaurant to their home.

Jo Anne Sanzeri, director of the Mayor's Driving Under the Influence Project, says she's "thrilled by this wonderful community effort to keep our streets safe during this festive time of the year."

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P O E M

THE J CAR

By Thom Gunn

Last year I used to ride the J CHURCH Line,
Climbing between small yards recessed with vine
—Their ordered privacy, their plots of flowers
Like blameless lives we might imagine ours.
Most trees were cut back, but some brushed the car
Before it swung round to the street once more
On which I rolled out almost to the end,
To 29th Street, calling for my friend.

He'd be there at the door, smiling but gaunt,
To set out for the German restaurant.
There, since his sight was tattered now, I would
First read the menu out. He liked the food
In which a sourness and dark richness meet
For conflict without taste of a defeat,
As in the Sauerbraten. What he ate
I hoped would help him to put on some weight,
But though the beer and crusted pancakes drew him
They never seemed to make much difference to him,
And I'd eat his dessert before we both
Rose from the neat arrangement of the cloth,
Where the connection between life and food
Had briefly seemed so obvious if so crude.
Our conversation circumspectly cheerful,
We had sat here like children good but fearful
Who think if they behave everything might
Still against likelihood come out all right.

But it would not, and we could not stay here:
Finishing up the Optimator beer,
I walked him home through the suburban cool
By dimming shape of church and Catholic school.
Only a few white teenagers about.
After the four blocks he would be tired out.
I'd leave him to the feverish sleep ahead.
Myself to ride through darkened yards instead
Back to my health. Of course I simplify.
Of course. It tears me still that he should die.
As only an apprentice to his trade.
The ultimate engagements not yet made.
His gifts had been withdrawing one by one
Even before their usefulness was done:
This optic nerve would never be relit:
The other flickered, soon to be with it.
Unready, disappointed, unachieved.
He knew he would not write the much-conceived,
Much-hoped-for work now, nor yet help create
A love he might in full reciprocate.

*"The J Car" is one of a sequence of poems (soon to be published in an upcoming book) about people who have died of AIDS. It is included in the anthology *West of the West*, a collection of writings about California just published by North Point Press. Other recent works by Thom Gunn include his *Selected Poems* and *The Passages of Joy*. Gunn, 60, moved to the U.S. from England in 1954 and has lived in San Francisco since 1961. He currently resides in the Haight-Ashbury.*

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Merchants' Holiday Plans

Continued from Page 1

will take several breaks from his list-making duties to stroll down 24th Street with a Christmas choir. For details, call Smylie at 285-7498.

Joe Bruno, owner of Tomasoni Novelty and Variety, the tiny toy shop at 435 29th St., says he also phoned the North Pole and invited Santa to stop by. The jolly old soul will be at the store on Sunday, Dec. 17, from 1 to 4 p.m. Bring a camera, Bruno says, to capture the joy on the faces of your children as they confide their wishes to Santa. For more information, call Bruno at 648-0425.

Santa also has a soft spot for Rabat, the clothing store at 4001 24th St. He'll be making his fifth annual holiday visit on Dec. 18-22, from 6 to 8 p.m., and on Dec. 23-24, all day. According to Rabat's elves, Santa promises to let the children test his long white beard for authenticity.

The One Stop Party Shop, at Church and 28th streets, has not only asked Santa but the whole neighborhood to drop by for Christmas caroling and spiced cider and cookies from 6 to 8 p.m. on the weekends of Dec. 9-10 and 16-17.

"We've got little books of carols and background music," says Party Shop owner Cynthia DeLosa, so Noe Valley's voices should not be shy. Santa's helpers say he'll attend the Sunday songfests, and DeLosa will be on hand with a Polaroid camera. Call 824-0414 for exact times.

Many neighborhood shops will extend their hours to accommodate holiday shoppers this year. Rahat owner Patty Woody says, "We'll be open until 8 p.m. from December 18th through the 23rd so that our neighbors can fill those empty spaces under their trees."

Gladrags, on 24th near Noe, will ex-



Glen Potter invites the neighborhood to drop by Accent on Flowers this month to take a look at his forest of holiday ornaments, poinsettias, and basket bouquets. The 24th Street store also boasts one of the prettiest Christmas trees in Noe Valley. PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARD.

tend its weeknight hours until 7 p.m. the week before Christmas. "We want to make it convenient for people to shop on 24th Street," says Bonnie Jones, Gladrags' owner.

Since Thanksgiving, you've had an extra hour each day to buy celestial presents at Star Magic, 4026 24th St. The shop is staying open until 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Other stores in the neighborhood are

planning to extend their hours the week prior to Christmas, so be sure to check with your favorite merchants.

But if you're trying to reach your favorite neighborhood newspaper (the *Noe Valley Voice*), you might want to hold off until New Year's. After our holiday bash at Rami's Caffe Dec. 11, the *Voice* staff will be taking off for a month of R & R. (Our first issue of the 1990s will be out Feb. 1.)

We'll let you know what Santa brings. □

Aleo's Windows Smashed on Election Night

By Peter Weverka

At 11:45 on the night of the Nov. 7 elections, a blond man wearing a denim jacket smashed the windows of Twin Peaks Properties at 4072 24th St. with a hammer. Police are still looking for the suspect.

"He just wanted to smash my windows," speculates Harry Aleo, the owner of the realty company. "I guess he didn't like the way the elections turned out. I didn't even have anything in the window about the elections. I have President Bush's picture there, but that's the only political thing."

For years Aleo has been treating Noe Valley residents to an original, ever-changing window display that includes photographs of his conservative political heroes and all sorts of fascinating frieze—a- brac—antique dolls, statuettes, portraits of baseball players, historic newspapers, and clippings of newspaper editorials.

Twin Peaks Properties is the oldest established business on 24th Street. Aleo, a World War II veteran of Patton's Third Army, opened his realty office in 1947 in the building now occupied by Haystack Pizza.

"I've been in Noe Valley all these years, so this has been kind of disappointing to me," he remarked. "People like democracy and the democratic process until you start thinking differently than they do. Then democracy doesn't seem to matter anymore."

Aleo is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the man who broke his windows. Anyone with information about the crime should contact the police or leave a note for Aleo at Twin Peaks Properties. □

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Neighbors Say No to Mural Project

Continued from Page 1

that far.

After months of sending letters, making phone calls, and gathering signatures on petitions, neighborhood and school backers of the project—which also included a plan to train young artists as apprentice muralists—said they had been defeated by the political arm-twisting of a few misinformed residents near the school.

"We're very disappointed. We were hoping we'd at least get partial funding for the playground murals," said Linda Wevano, the school's principal. "It would have been a valuable experience for the children, and it's unfortunate that now that's lost for the whole year."

Wevano said the school and muralists would try to fund the project next year.

Meanwhile, neighborhood opponents of the mural, who also wrote letters, made phone calls, and signed petitions, breathed a sigh of relief.

"If a few of the neighbors hadn't gotten together to oppose it, we probably would have had the mural," said Michael O'Connor, who lives across the street from the school and was one of the most vocal opponents of the project.

O'Connor said he opposed the outdoor mural because he didn't like the work of the [Precita Eyes] artist, which he had seen at other schools in the city.

"It reminds me of the psychedelic art of the '60s," he told a meeting of the Upper Noe Neighbors in late September. "I like it about as much as I like boom boxes and bongo drums."

Robin Selfe, a former rock musician who makes her living as a craftsperson and lives near the school, also opposed the mural and signed a petition against it. She said there was nothing wrong with the idea of a mural at the school, but that the one proposed was too large and in the wrong place.

"We felt that what they were proposing was a little out of scale with the neighborhood," Selfe said. "It would feel like a billboard to me."



Neighborhood opponents effectively blocked a mural planned for the south wall of Buena Vista School, at 30th and Noe streets (visible at the right of this photo). PHOTO BY LORENE WARWICK

Selfe added that neither she nor her neighbors had anything against mural artwork. "We have a really eclectic couple of blocks here. This is not a bunch of yuppies trying to block a Latino project."

Buena Vista is a "Spanish-immersion" school, where all classes are taught in Spanish. About 40 percent of its students are Hispanic, and many of those are bilingual.

Another resident near the school, Helen Giles, said she signed the petition against the mural because it would lower the area's property values.

"I think it cheapens the neighborhood," said Giles. "Most of the neighbors, they're not in favor of it."

Not so, said Don Anderson, whose 7-year-old daughter attends the school.

"The response has been overwhelmingly in favor of doing a public project for the public good," he said, noting that backers of the mural had gotten at least 200 signatures of residents in favor of the artwork.

"But it's not going to be done because a few people have voiced their opinions against it." (The mayor's office received about 20 letters and phone calls from neighbors opposed to the mural.)

Anderson, who lives in the Bayview

District, argued that residents have no particular right to a pleasant view outside their window. Public officials have a duty to work for the greater public good, he said.

"For them to knuckle under to the 'what's my property value' mentality is really an abandonment of responsibility."

Anderson said he was not ready to give up hope on the mural project and that he would continue to lobby city officials to support it.

Buena Vista School was one of three schools included in an application for mural projects written by Precita Eyes, which would have supervised the painting. The center applied through the mayor's office for funding under the federal government's competitive community development block grant program, which hands out money once a year. Only one of the sites in the Precita Eyes application, Marshall School at 15th and Mission streets, was funded for a mural project.

In all, about \$60,000 of the community development grant money headed for San Francisco will be earmarked for murals.

Henry Sultan, an artist who lives near the school, said he was disappointed that the mural did not get funding.

"There are a lot of people in this neighborhood who would have supported it if they'd known about it," Sultan said. "This isn't Hillshorugh or Pacific Heights. This is Noe Valley."

And that was probably part of the reason the project didn't get approved, according to one city official.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said the Buena Vista project was turned down for two reasons. First, the official said, "We try to steer clear of murals with any controversy." And second, block grant money is supposed to be spent in areas with low- and moderate-income residents.

"That area just didn't fit that description," according to 1980 census data, the official said.

Jim Kjorvestad, executive director of Support Services for the Arts, a non-profit group that helps artists get funding, agreed that it is difficult to get financing for public arts projects where there is neighborhood opposition.

"If there are aspects of the community that don't want it, then it really isn't appropriate and won't get done," said Kjorvestad. "The purpose here is to bring people together, not divide them."

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Alvarado— an Integrated City School That's Working

By Grace D'Anca

Before many of us leave for work, school buses are already carrying children from the mural-walled Mission District and public housing towers of Visitacion Valley past updated Victorians and gourmet coffee bars.

Their destination is Alvarado School, a public elementary school on Douglass Street in increasingly affluent Noe Valley. Here other buses pick up neighborhood children waiting to be taken to schools elsewhere in the city.

At 7:40 a.m. inside Alvarado's brightly painted main hallway, paraprofessional Sandy Calvello and reading specialist Marlynn Lancelotti greet the stream of 456 students who burst through a central door.

This daily greeting is standard. Calvello and Lancelotti instruct some kids to slow down, but they also dispense plenty of good cheer: "Gee, what a great outfit! Oh, you got a haircut!" And kids who need hugs receive them.

"A lot of effort goes out here," says Calvello. "But that's how it should be."

For the past three years, Alvarado has strived to implement the court-ordered desegregation of San Francisco public schools won by the NAACP in 1983, which resulted in targeted "consent-decree" schools.

Consent-decree schools are under a mandate to give minority students who tested low in their local schools another chance—within a racially integrated school setting. Enrollment at Alvarado is 38 percent black from the Geneva Towers public housing project and 28 percent Hispanic from the Mission District.



The "sensory-motor" program at Alvarado School gets kids' bodies and brains moving. From left are Diana Neil, Isaid Herrera, Arthur De Lance, and Sandy Calvello, assistant director of the program. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

Aside from an "other" group representing 12 percent, the remaining 21 percent of the students come from Noe Valley, where \$300,000 homes are deals.

Staff say they see their hard work paying off in an improved school, but they want more involvement from middle-class white families in the neighborhood—to provide a better racial balance and more community involvement. They also note that the program is more about bringing

together kids from opposite ends of the economic spectrum than from different races. Ninety percent of Alvarado's students come from families with incomes low enough for the children to qualify for free lunches.

"Economic integration is what's really going on here," says Alvarado Principal Rose Barragan. "You can bring middle-class children of different races together and they're not that dissimilar. Families

from the neighborhood just have to buy into the idea that inter-urban schools are important to the future of the city."

Some Noe Valley parents who do not enroll their children at Alvarado may send them to alternative public schools, such as nearby Buena Vista School, which offers a Spanish immersion program, or Rooftop School, which is renowned for its high test scores. Others may opt for private schools.

Most of these parents would not give their names. They expressed mixed feelings about Alvarado because of hearsay, or due to direct experience some years back, when the school had a reputation for behavior problems, and the neighborhood reportedly responded with "white flight." Many acknowledged, however, that the school has greatly improved since receiving consent-decree funding, and give much credit to Barragan and her staff.

One woman waiting outside Alvarado with her daughter for the Rooftop bus said, "We go to Rooftop because it's a family tradition, but I have friends with children here who like it very much."

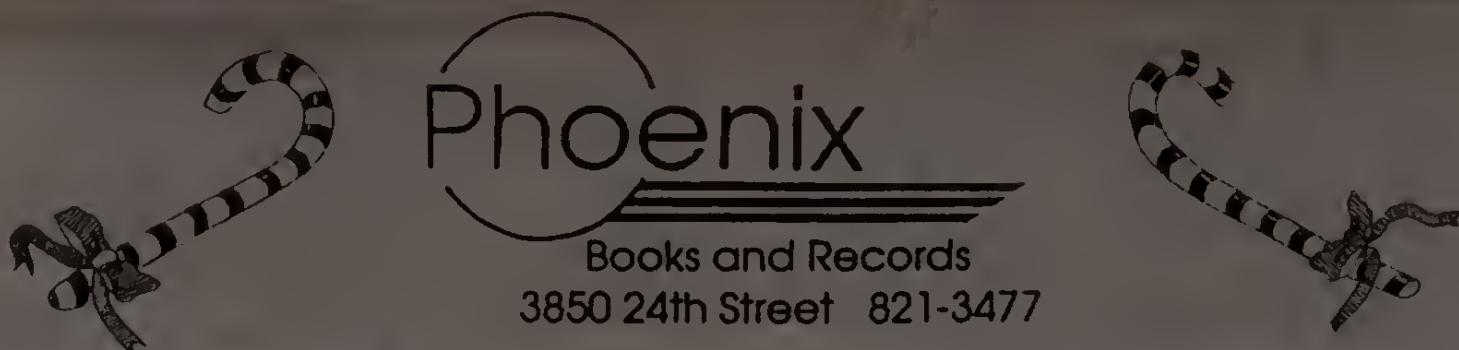
"A lot of people don't even look at their public school. This school is about socio-economic integration, and the biggest problems with that are differences in behavior and values."

Luke Aguilera, who lives down the street from Alvarado, plays basketball on the school grounds after hours, with his towheaded son. His children attend the local Catholic school because he believes they receive more discipline there.

"I grew up in the Midwest where everybody went to public school," says Aguilera, who runs a parking service. "Here, you have to be more careful, so they learn before middle school. I've heard reports of fights when you bring kids in from other ethnic areas."

Understanding cultural and environmental differences is a big job for everyone at Alvarado. Kids from Geneva Towers and parts of the Mission are accustomed to seeing violence in their

Continued on Page 9



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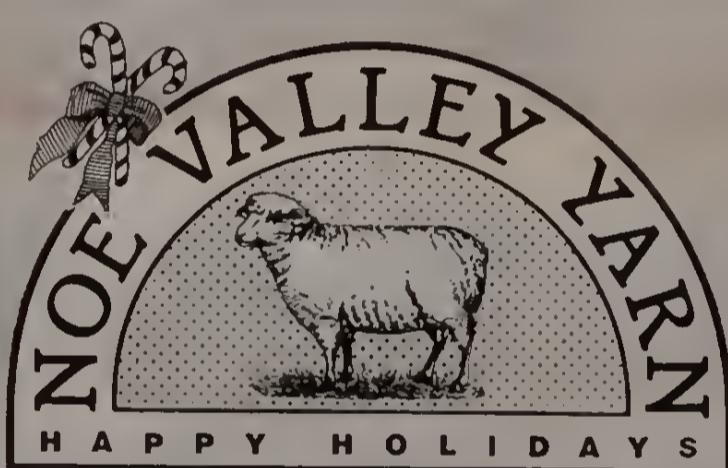
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Where to Get a Holiday Buzz

Amy Pope, Thea Ehezer, and Casi Buryn (left to right) were among the many Christmas dreamers who found themselves mesmerized by the electric train and miniature village that was set up last year in the window of Spinelli's coffee shop on 24th Street. Assuming Spinelli's continues the tradition, they'll be riding the rails again this year. PHOTO BY ED BURYN

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Alvarado School

Continued from Page 7

neighborhoods. Staff members admit that it might be tough for these kids to let their guard down in the nurturing environment Alvarado tries to provide—only to have to put it up again when they go back home.

"We tell the kids that we can't change where they come from, but we can change things here," comments student adviser Barbara Hornsby. "We teach them that life is about choices, and to concentrate on what's positive."

"With the 'family units' [paired classrooms that do special activities together], kids can be part of a larger family—school, where they find more similarities between themselves than dissimilarities."

Leslie Woodward, a neighborhood parent and freelance writer, says that kids should learn to get along early on. She had originally hoped to send her 5-year-old daughter to Rooftop, but was turned down. Now she's glad.

"We're happy to be here," she says. "Neighborhood schools ought to work. We thought about private schools, but relying on them just perpetuates the problem."

Hornsby has a vital perspective as a black who raised her own children in the neighborhood. She sent them to Alvarado at the beginning of the busing era. She says that integrating entire neighborhoods is the real solution, but that busing is all society will tolerate for now.

"Busing encourages put-downs unless schools work very hard to change attitudes, like we do here," Hornsby notes. "Kids riding on buses lose their neighborhood school. They think this is a rich neighborhood. And white kids think all minorities are poor, with few exceptions."

Pam Rucker's niece and nephew were bused to Alvarado when they lived in Geneva Towers. Now they live with her in the Western Addition and ride Muni to Alvarado. She continued their enrollment at the school because the staff spotted a problem with the children's family and got help for the kids.

"Kids lose out on social things if they're bused, but going to an all-black school in their neighborhood isn't how it is in the real world, either."

"If it wasn't for Alvarado, I don't know where the kids would be. Barbara Hornsby has been taking my nephew to therapy and Rose [Barragan] tries to be flexible to make things work out for us."

Hornsby and fellow student advisers Guadalupe Pena and Nancy Hawkins-Randall, who work with kids who have problems, point out that it's not always roses for Noe Valley kids, either.



Alvarado students Ronnie Cook (left) and Eugene Hart get a kick out of twirling paper streamers in one of the magnet school's innovative exercise programs. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

"We have a lot of families here who have problems, for example, parents in conflict," says Pena, who's Mexican, Gypsy, and tri-lingual. "Or Noe Valley kids might go home to a nice environment and still be alone, be latchkey kids."

But a big gap between many of Alvarado's minority and white students is the difference in their experience before starting school. Many minority families, overwhelmed by the stress of keeping things together with too few dollars, have been less able to prepare their children for school than some of their white counterparts, who have easier access to preschool enrichment programs.

Consent-decree funding helps to bridge the gap by providing a smaller class size (24), as well as computer and science programs, and other educational goodies. But teachers and staff work constantly to devise creative ways to teach Alvarado students.

"The usual 'teacher as deliverer, student as sponge' method doesn't work here," Barragan says calmly as she directs a persistent, pigtailed little girl who wants to know when her "office" time will be up.

"We do a lot of hands-on learning here. My idea is that emotion triggers memory in a different way, that it's the glue to learning."

For instance, after a jubilant Halloween field trip to the pumpkin patch, teachers used the pumpkins as a tie-in to math. Kids weighed their pumpkins and counted the seeds, in addition to carving faces. Alvarado also has a literature-based reading program that furthers this hands-on approach by having the children act out stories and make drawings about them.

The smaller classroom size afforded by consent-decree has been a draw for neighborhood families, and Alvarado staff is hoping that word of a new "sensory-motor" program will also help bring in more Noe Valley families hungry for innovative education.

In sensory-motor sessions, kids climb, roll and jump at various activity stations. The physical activity theoretically stirs up fluids in the brain that help children—particularly those kids who live in cramped quarters—to concentrate better in the classroom. All kindergarten through second-grade classes attend these sessions twice weekly. Alvarado's two learning disability classrooms attend once a week.

"This [program] has really made a difference," says sensory-motor teacher Judy Pinkerton. "We see it helping with reading, math and writing."

Lunch is just about over. Fourth-grade

student teacher Susan Blair is preparing an afternoon lesson on prehistoric times. Students will make a time wheel in the classroom, which is full of dinosaurs they've drawn, stuffed, and hung. Blair likes teaching at Alvarado and hopes to work at a similar school when she finishes her training. But she has mixed feelings about busing and would like to see more participation from the neighborhood.

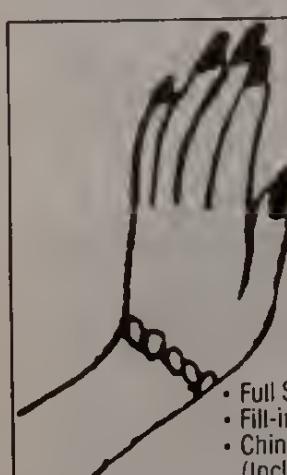
"It's very rewarding teaching here," she says, "but I feel sorry for the kids because they come all the way over here, and there are so few kids from the neighborhood."

Down the hall, some of the fourth- and fifth-graders in Patrick Murray's gifted class have spent their lunch hour playing with computers. A teacher for 22 years, Murray lives in Marin but teaches in San Francisco because he likes the kids better. He says that Alvarado works because of a good staff and a good principal.

"That's about it," he observes. "Teachers recognize a need to be positive—less reliant on technique and more on a holistic approach. Public schools in the city do a good job, given the social problems you have to deal with."

What do the kids themselves have to say about their school? They all say just about the same thing.

"We like it here."



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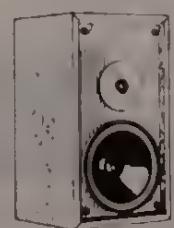
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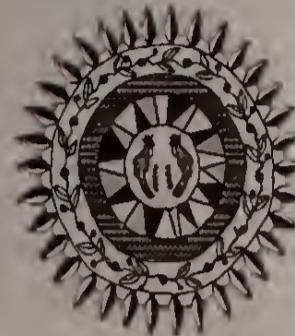
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High School of the Arts Stepping Out

By Jeanne Alexander

Dancers manipulate pleated lengths of undulating paper sculptures, to the pulse of an electronic score, while slide images projected on a background screen appear, fade and vanish.

It all fuses into "Breathing," a special performance by students from the San Francisco School of the Arts (SOTA) taking place Dec. 1-2 and 7-9 at Theater Artaud.

Part of "Projections in Performance 1989"—two weekends of mixed-media presentations staged by Multi-Image Showcase—the six-minute "Breathing" segment was produced by sculptor Ruth Asawa, an artist-in-residence at the School of the Arts, a magnet arts program housed at McAteer High School.

Directed and choreographed by Randee Pauve, "Breathing" features dancers Artemis Anderson, Cara Goldman, Chantell Lucier, Adrian Skaj, and Joy Watts. Costumes were designed by Ellen Hauptli, and Herb Bielawa of San Francisco State University composed the score.

The multi-media dance performance, which draws on the talents of SOTA students in many departments, draws high praise from the teachers who helped them prepare: Frank Lillef, visual arts; Jerry Panone, music; Joel Eis, theater tech, and Sharon Meggers, voice.

"We were very pleased that our student group was invited to share the stage with the professional video artists of Multi-Image Showcase," said Marcia Anderson, president of SOTA's Parent Teacher Student Association.

All performances of "Projections"



Wrapped in a paper sculpture designed by Ruth Asawa, School of the Arts student Adrian Skaj rehearses for "Breathing," performed this weekend at Theater Artaud.

PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

begin at 8:30 p.m. at Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St. near 17th. For ticket information call 621-7797.

SOTA's visual arts students have also been busy this year, and an exhibit of some of their recent artwork, "ECOLAGE, Miniatures & Ceramics," will be featured at the Art Store Gallery, 812 Mission St., through Jan. 4.

The exhibit stemmed from a "found art" project, assigned by artists-in-residence Ruth Asawa, Christopher Lane, and Jamine Zegart. Students were

instructed to collect and save any found material—such as newspapers, gum wrappers, cans, and tires—not only for use in creating a work of art, but to increase their awareness of the environment.

The Art Store Gallery is a non-profit community exhibition space, open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For further information about the exhibit, or to learn more about SOTA, call 421-3933. □

School Budgets Need a Boost

According to the Department of Education, money raised by the California Lottery accounts for only three percent of the state's education budget. Instead of buying lottery or lotto tickets this month, why not donate the money directly to your local elementary school or junior high?

Noe Valley's non-profit PTAs are now accepting donations from former students, faculty, and anyone who wants to make a tax-deductible contribution before the tax year ends. The parent-teacher groups are responsible for raising money for student enrichment programs, graduation exercises, school spirit activities, field trips, and books for the library. But because of budget constraints and an increase in student enrollment, the schools are really strapped this year.

Principal Jack Moulthrop at Fairmount School informs us that during 1989 the Fairmount PTA has raised \$30 for each classroom, which breaks down to only about \$1 per student.

The following is a list of the active PTAs in Noe Valley's public schools.

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A Bolivian Statesman Waiting in The Wings on Castro Street

By Steve Steinberg

Standing behind the counter of his store, Bolivian Imports at Castro and 24th streets, Enrique Bachinelo seems the very image of the mild-mannered shopkeeper. His soft-spoken and somewhat diffident demeanor befits his background as a miner, labor leader, lawyer, and senator in his native Bolivia.

Bachinelo didn't come to San Francisco by choice, and definitely not to open an import store. Rather, he came as a political exile who was forced to flee Bolivia for his life after one of that country's numerous and bloody coups.

"It was not for tourism that I left," says Bachinelo, a man who likes to inject a comic note into some very serious situations.

Bachinelo was a senator-elect in Bolivia's National Congress when in July 1980 the military staged an uprising against the country's newly elected leaders. Many of the generals' political opponents were murdered, tortured, or imprisoned during the coup.

Bachinelo and his American-born wife, Frances Payne, went underground. He eventually was able to leave the country after spending 41 days hiding out in the Mexican Embassy. Payne, meanwhile, put herself at the mercy of a not-very-sympathetic American Embassy, which reluctantly escorted her out of Bolivia.



There's political history and hope behind Castro Street's Bolivian Imports store, owned by Enrique Bachinelo and wife Frances Payne, former residents of their strife-torn country. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

A thin, wiry man, Bachinelo last month took time out from work at his shop to talk about his adventures and politics. Although he speaks some English, he needs the help of his wife to translate the finer points.

Bachinelo's election to the Bolivian Senate 10 years ago was the climax of a life devoted to improving the lot of the Bolivian workers, particularly the miners. He calls that effort a "continual struggle for the vindication of the working class."

He is a true patriot, but one who sees his country for what it is, without any illusions.

"The history of my country is very sad. Bolivia does not have democratic traditions. The greater part of its history was lived under dictatorial regimes, coups, and groups of civilians who had no ability to govern the country."

"The few times when we did have democratic governments, we did not know how to take advantage of them because we had few competent people to direct us."

Despite his disappointments, Bachinelo says with emotion that he will love his country "always."

Bachinelo was born 59 years ago in Potosi, a southern mining town 4,000

meters above sea level. His mother was mestiza, Spanish and Indian, but his father was an Italian from Venice.

"My father," says Bachinelo, "like all foreigners, came [to Bolivia] with the idea of making America," that is, of making it big in the new world. A building contractor by trade, the elder Bachinelo built the first railroad line between the cities of Potosi and Sucre.

As a youth, Enrique Bachinelo—one of five children—was encouraged to go to Italy to study. But a change in the

Continued on Page 14

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The Long Road for 2 Bolivian Imports

Continued from Page 13

family's fortunes, brought about by bad business ventures, forced him instead to go to work in the mines to help support the household.

The history of Bolivia is intimately tied to mining. For over four hundred years, since the days of the Spanish conquistadors, Bolivia's rich mineral resources—silver, tin, and copper—have been exploited by the country's rulers.

Yet, because of greed and mismanagement, the country is one of the poorest in Latin America, and by and large its miners have failed to benefit from the riches that they have labored to bring out of the earth. In recent times, the falling prices of many metals, particularly tin, have perpetuated the continuing poverty of Bolivia's miners.

For 20 years, from the age of 19 to 39, Bachinelo worked in Bolivia's mines, mainly for COMIBOL, the Bolivian national mining corporation. The experience, says Bachinelo, particularly the manner in which his labors were exploited, left him "bitter and frustrated."

As a COMIBOL miner, however, he still had it better than the country's cooperative miners, who rented mines from the government. In COMIBOL mines as well as in the country's private mines, machinery was used to aid the operation. But in the cooperative mines, workers did everything by hand. The gov-

ernment deducted many expenses from their earnings, and lacking the government's connections to world markets, the cooperative miners had to sell their silver and tin at a great disadvantage.

"Their profit is not enough to live decently or give a good education to their children," says Bachinelo. Later in his career as a lawyer and labor leader, he would represent the cause of the cooperative miners, striving to improve their impoverished lot.

In his early 30s, Bachinelo realized he lacked a true profession. "I was restless to do something else," he said. He took up law, and for five years, from 1960 to 1965, worked a night shift in the mines while studying law during the day. He was lucky if he got six hours of sleep a day, divided into two shifts, he said.

Even before graduating from law school, Bachinelo worked for the betterment of the miners. He led and organized strikes, and published bulletins and newspapers on their behalf.

This work was not without risks. He and his fellow labor leaders were arrested numerous times, sometimes for days or a few months, sometimes for years. Bachinelo was last arrested in 1971 and imprisoned for a year and a half. He served his term without any official sentence or trial. "Where are there trials in Bolivia?" he laughs.

He says he was not beaten or tortured during his imprisonment, although some of his companions were. "I was just deprived of my freedom and continually moved in the dark of night from one place to another."

The early 1970s were another period of military dictatorship in Bolivia, when many people simply disappeared, claims Bachinelo. There was "no justice, no respect for human rights," he says.

Early in his career, Bachinelo affiliated himself with the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR), the progressive political party that took power in Bolivia in 1952 during a popular revolution. It has ruled off and on ever since. Over the years, the MNR has undergone many ideological fluctuations—some to the right and some to the left—but Bachinelo says he has always remained true to the party's original ideals. "I've never changed. I'm not going to change."

Despite the party's failure to eradicate poverty, high inflation, and a huge foreign debt, Bachinelo feels that many of the basic goals of the MNR have been met: the mines have been largely nationalized, agrarian reform has been instituted, literacy programs have been implemented, universal suffrage is now the rule, and since 1982 the country has been free of military rule.

Much remains to be done, however, including organizing the campesinos into cooperatives, stabilizing the plummeting price of mineral resources, and finding ways to sustain economic development,

Bachinelo says.

In the mid-1970s, shortly before his political star rose, Bachinelo met his present wife. By this time a widower with four daughters—two of whom now live in San Francisco—Bachinelo met Frances Payne at a home where they both rented rooms. Payne was a teacher in the same normal school where one of Bachinelo's daughters was a student. The daughter encouraged her father to get to know Payne so she could help her with her studies.

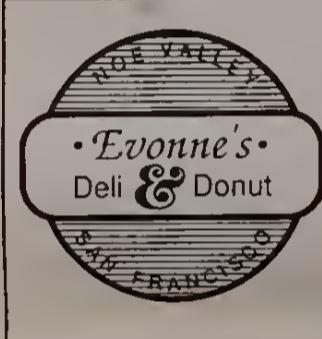
A romance between the two bloomed, and they were married in 1979.

A native of Detroit, Payne, 55, had lived in Bolivia since 1964. She had originally come to Bolivia to do research for her thesis in educational sociology, but fell in love with the country and stayed. "Bolivia is a very different country, a place where you can be very creative," she says. "Life is not structured."

To support herself, Payne taught sociology and psychology and also did research at various Bolivian institutes. But much of her research was short-lived because the institutes came and went according to prevailing political currents.

Payne also became involved in Bolivian politics, particularly with incipient human rights groups. Many of her associates were Marxists, and consequently she was labeled a Marxist. Although she does ascribe to Marxism, she does so "with reservations."

During the 1980 coup, Payne made it to the American Embassy, where offi-



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Bolivian Imports

Continued from Page 14

cialists let her know they knew all about her and her activities. She says they subjected her to a mood of interrogation and intimidation during the three days she was there. And when they finally took her to the La Paz Airport, the embassy officials tried to leave her outside, in front of the military checkpoint. Payne says she had to plead with them to escort her inside the building and through immigration. "It was not a good experience," she says.

For Bachinelo, the road to the airport began with his entrance into the forefront of Bolivian political life in 1978. At that time, he had allied himself with Hernan Siles Zuazo, an MNR candidate for president. Zuazo invited Bachinelo to run for senator, representing the Potosi district.

The election took place in June of 1980, and both Bachinelo and Zuazo won their campaigns. It was less than a month later—before the new president and Congress had taken office—that the generals struck. The military claimed that they were intervening because Siles Zuazo was organizing a leftist front (his party was allied with the Communists). But according to Bachinelo, the real reason was that the generals were tied to the drug trade and felt that their drug dealings would be jeopardized by the new government.

Bachinelo also alleges that Argentina

backed the generals financially in return for favorable trade agreements. "Unfortunately, the military in our country is very cheap and will sell themselves for cheap prices."

Separated during the coup, Bachinelo and Payne were eventually reunited in San Francisco, where Payne had family.

Life was difficult for the couple at first. There was little money and no work for a long time. Payne also suffered from culture shock. "Things were much more complicated. When I left [the U.S. in the '60s], there were no credit cards or touch-tone buttons."

Bachinelo found a job as a Spanish teacher, while Payne worked as a court interpreter for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. (She now works as a secretary.)

The two also fought against the military government back in Bolivia, putting out bulletins and lobbying the U.S. Congress to deny military aid and recognition to the military junta ruling the country.

In 1982, after two years of inept rule, the military invited President-elect Siles Zuazo and the Congress elected in 1980 to return and take over the reins of government.

Bachinelo went back to Bolivia and took his seat as a senator. But by then, the country had been so terribly mismanaged, it was bankrupt. And, of course, the military was still there, hovering in the background. "They are always the power behind the throne," says Bachinelo. "They are the owners of the country."

Bachinelo served as a senator for three years. In that period, he confesses, very little was accomplished legislatively. The country was in such disarray that the new government was mainly concerned with organizing the mechanics of law-making. "Our first work was to put order in our own house."

Attempts were made to curtail the drug trade, and Bachinelo spoke out in the Senate, calling for an investigation into drug-trafficking. His efforts led nowhere. No one supported him, he says, or even commented on his call for an investigation. Instead, he received death threats. "No one said anything because everyone was afraid. And so the status quo remained."

For the rest of his term, Bachinelo focused on providing drought relief, electrification, new schools, and other legislation that was sought by residents in his home district of Potosi.

But in 1985, in the face of staggering economic problems, the government of President Siles Zuazo was forced to resign and call elections a year ahead of schedule.

Although asked to run again by several political groups, Bachinelo decided not to seek re-election. He did so out of loyalty and respect for his friend Siles Zuazo. "Basically I declined their invitation [to run for office] for my political principles."

Bachinelo left Bolivia and rejoined his wife in San Francisco, where in 1986 they opened Bolivian Imports.

Bachinelo hopes the store will continue to prosper and wishes he had a whole chain of Bolivian Imports. He says the shop means dollars for his country's artists and craftspeople, and for those seeking an alternative to coca leaf production.

Though they live in the Excelsior, Bachinelo and Payne say they like Noe Valley and want to help the area grow.

Bachinelo did return to Bolivia earlier this year to work in the presidential election of 1989. He spent several months campaigning for the MNR candidate Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, who won a plurality of the votes but lacked the majority needed for victory. Consequently, the election was thrown to the Bolivian Congress, which chose another candidate as president.

Bachinelo plans to campaign for de Lozada or another candidate in the presidential election of 1993. He is also contemplating a personal return to politics and another run for the Bolivian Senate in that year.

For the moment Bolivia appears to have a democratic government, and Bachinelo hopes it can endure. His deepest fear is that the military will become restive again. After seven years out of office, the military officers may have grown "nostalgic for power. But we do not know. Bolivia is always the country of surprises," Bachinelo says.

"But I hope we don't have these kind of surprises again. They will take away my last days of rest."

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Group Asks City to Make Noe Courts Pretty

By Addie Lanier

There is a community effort under way to spruce up Noe Courts, the "bubble park" at the corner of Douglass and 24th streets.

Maryanne Downes, representing the Elizabeth Street SAFE Group, submitted a \$65,000 estimate on fixing up the Courts to the city's Recreation and Park Department on Sept. 20. The SAFE Group hopes that Noe Courts will receive some of the funds allocated by the city for park and playground improvements in 1990.

According to Downes, the \$65,000 would be used to resurface the tennis and basketball courts, restore the restroom facilities, fence in the children's play area, clean the plastic bubble play structure, and replace worn benches and tired plants.

So far, two other neighborhood groups—the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club and the Friends of Noe Valley—have lent their backing to the project, but letters of support from individual residents are needed, Downes says, because competition for open space funds is fierce. The department will decide which parks and playgrounds receive money in January and February, 1990.

Address letters to the San Francisco Open Space/Park Renovation Citizens Advisory Committee, McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94117. □

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Quake Damage to Theater Just 'Cosmetic'

The Castro Goes on with the Show

By Jeff Kaliss

As publicist for Blumenfeld Enterprises, which owns the Castro Theatre, Jeff Diamond felt in a position to joke about how the legendary movie house came through the Oct. 17 earthquake.

"I know this brings up images of Tammy Fae Bakker," he quipped, "but it just suffered what you would call cosmetic damage."

Nevertheless, the theater, an official city landmark on Castro Street near 18th, was shook up enough to be closed for a month. And it fell to the firm of Whatever Works, based in the East Bay, to restore the great lady in time for a grand re-opening Nov. 17. The contractor is one of the few in the world capable of restoring old movie houses and building good new ones.

Stephen Back, foreman on the Castro job, pointed out that even though the theater was solidly built in the 1920s, the Castro's ornate ceiling decorations form a layer of plaster separate from and about 10 feet below the actual roof of the building. In an earthquake, "The building can be going one way, and the plaster can go its own way," Back noted.

In fact, some plaster pieces around the movie screen came loose during the October shaker, some falling on and slightly

defacing the Wurlitzer organ (which has since been returned to its mightiness).

Fortunately, there was no film scheduled during Mother Nature's big show, and no one was inside. Blumenfeld promptly shut down the Castro and sought help, but had to wait a week before Back's crew could find enough scaffolding to get them up to the five-story-high ceiling.

Like in other fine old theaters in the Bay Area, including the Grand Lake and the Paramount, much of the Castro's decorations are composed of plaster and lath held together by wire gridlock. From their lofty platform, Back's crew set to work "capturing" the elements of the gridwork and tying them down. Already loosened plaster was removed and other elements were secured so that nothing will fall on the audience below in the event of a future shock.

Shortly before the Castro's reopening last month, Back declared that "you should stress that this theater is now completely safe, and remind people that it was well built and well designed in the first place."

He added that further restoration of the Castro's 12,000 square feet of hand-painted decoration, which was planned before the quake, will continue between films over the next few months. □

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Though the landmark movie house is basically as sturdy as it is elegant, the Castro Theater suffered enough minor damage to its interior ornamentation during the Oct. 17 earthquake to force the owner to shut down for a month. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

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A message from the American Diabetes Association. 



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Read Any Good Books Lately?

By Mitchell Friedman

A ruling white elite. Massive demonstrations. People jailed for over 20 years. These are the images that most of us automatically associate with the current political situation in South Africa.

But for members of the recently formed Noe Valley Book Club, the apartheid regime in South Africa conjures up a much more vivid picture of human degradation. This fall the group read and discussed *Kaffir Boy*, the autobiography of native South African Mark Mathabane.

"The filth and poverty that was part of Mark's daily existence was absolutely shocking," declared Andrea Rubenstein, one of the group's 10 members, at a meeting in October. "The scenes describing old shacks, the absence of modern plumbing, and widespread, lingering illnesses were worse than anything I've ever heard about here in the U.S. How Mark maintained his determination to succeed in school and in his tennis career in spite of this environment was truly amazing."

And that wasn't the worst of it, added Lori Kimmel, another book club participant. "The economic pressures made his living conditions even more trying. Money was scarce, and well-paid work

was hard to find. With women constantly bearing children, there seemed to be no escape."

All of the club members left the meeting with deeper insight into a key political and social issue—and that's the kind of experience they'd come looking for.

"Recently, I'd missed being a part of provocative discussions about books," says club founder Elizabeth Yale. "So I decided to start this group to bring together men and women in Noe Valley who share my commitment to great literature."

Among the other books the group has read are *Love in the Time of Cholera* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, and *The Red and the Black* by Stendhal. The book selection, which includes both fiction and non-fiction, is made by a consensus of club members.

So far, notes Yale, participants have succeeded in creating not only some lively, freewheeling discussions, but also a relaxed, friendly atmosphere with room for different points of view. There is no group leader, but one member is chosen each week to give a short introductory presentation related to the current book under discussion.

"We're informal enough that you can feel comfortable saying what's on your



Members of the newly formed Noe Valley Book Club discuss Mark Mathabane's *Kaffir Boy*, an insider's view of South African strife. Pictured are (from left) Andrea Rubenstein, Sarena Levine, Eve Stone, Elizabeth Yale, and Hero the dog. PHOTO BY ED BURYN

mind," says Rubenstein. "And we're not concerned about the mechanics of a book, but with its content and message. This is not Literature 101."

All residents of Noe Valley, young and

old, are encouraged to participate in the Noe Valley Book Club. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, from 7 to 9 p.m. For locations and more information, call Yale at 647-0930. □

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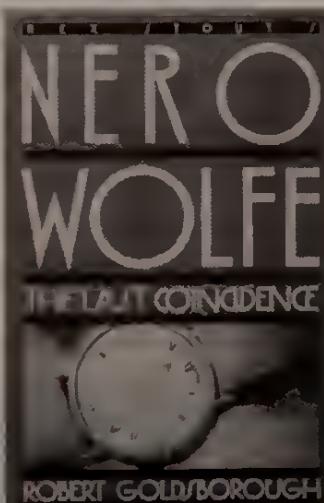
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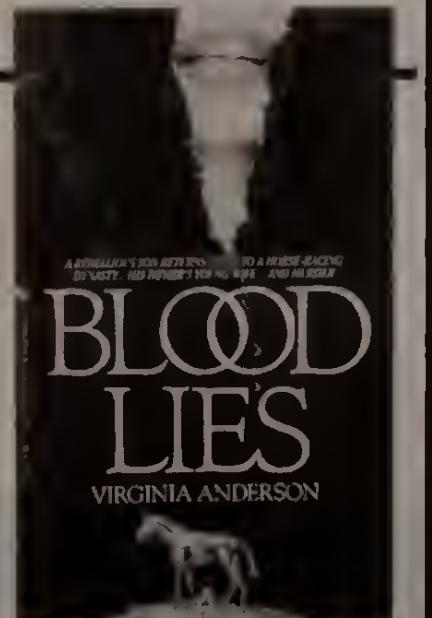
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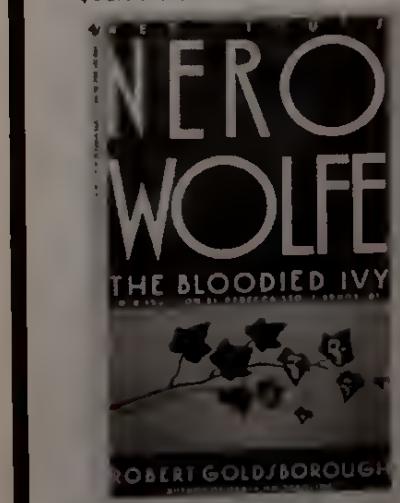
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Her Senior Year Was in the Camps

Continued from Page 1

Because I had the children, I chose to have my studio in my home. I wanted them to understand my work and learn how to work. If I hadn't spent all those years staying home with my kids and experimenting with materials that children could use, I would never have done the Ghirardelli and Hyatt fountains.

Having gone to Black Mountain College, I was exposed to people who were artists, who were making their living as artists. When I met Albert Lanier there and we decided to marry, we also decided that I would be an artist and Albert would be an architect. That meant self-employment.

That creates a real problem because there is no security. There's no vacation pay, there's no retirement plan, there's no medical insurance. You have to supply all that yourself. I think that's why people go into civil service jobs or work for large corporations—because they think they will have that kind of security. But we've found that nothing is secure. The only security you have is to be doing what you want to do with your life, by choice.

I don't have a B.A. degree or a degree in education, so I can't legally teach in the San Francisco public schools as an art teacher. I think it's a joke that I can

"I remember, it was about 11 o'clock in the morning on Dec. 7 [1941] when we got the news that Pearl Harbor had been bombed. Suddenly, instinctively, my whole family realized that something was going to change drastically for us."

only teach if I am invited as an artist. Right now I'm working with students at the School of the Arts. It's interesting to be working with high school students because you have to figure out how you can get and hold their attention. They're talking about football, jobs, girlfriends, everything else.

Last week I was talking to some of my students about my experiences during the internment in 1942. They are the age that I was at the time. I was 16. These students are 16, 17, and 18. They didn't really believe my story—almost as if I was making all of this up. These students didn't know anything about it and had never heard of the internment. It's not really a part of the history curriculum.

I didn't have time to rebel against my

parents, against the school, against all the things the students today get involved in—cutting classes, hating their teachers. When I was 16, we were just packing up and trying to dispose of our tractors, our horses, our farm equipment, our trucks, our car. And we were being evacuated from the life my father had worked on since 1902, when he began farming in California.

I remember, it was about 11 o'clock in the morning on Dec. 7 [1941] when we got the news that Pearl Harbor had been bombed. Suddenly, instinctively, my whole family realized that something was going to change drastically for us. And we had to go back to school the next day. Our principal, Ralph Burnett, assembled all the students in the auditorium. And we felt we were being watched by the whole student body. There might have been 100 Japanese students out of 1,200 or 1,300 at Excelsior Union High School [in the town of Norwalk, in southern California]. He spoke to the student body and told them not to blame us for this incident. But right away we began to realize who our friends were and who avoided us. It was a very sensitive time.

Shortly after that, a curfew was put on us. We couldn't go out after 8 o'clock at night and could travel only a certain distance. As soon as the war was declared, the leaders of the Japanese community told us to get rid of everything Japanese in our homes. My sister Lois had come back from Japan on the last boat possible, the Tatsuta-Maru. She had brought back some beautiful Japanese books on flower arranging, theater, antiques. So my father took all these books, made a pile, and burned them. Lois was crying, weeping, "These books, these beautiful books!" All of our fencing gear we had used as children when we studied Kendo was put on the pile and burned. Destroyed.

We had gone to language school. Suddenly all of our language teachers were ordered back to Japan. All of the fencing teachers had to leave because it was interpreted not as a sport, but as militaristic. We never knew whether they were sent by the Japanese government, and I still don't know.

Then, in February, Roosevelt signed Order 9066 [authorizing the Secretary of War to remove any person from a designated military area and to transport, feed and house that person in another place]. The whole coast was declared a military area. It was a good way to get rid of the Japanese farmers and businesses because they were so industrious. They made agriculture successful in California.

I think the hysteria about sabotage was just a political ploy to get rid of the Japanese. We never thought of ourselves as being connected with Japan—except maybe for the possibility of going back. That was a dream my parents had, to return to Japan. But all immigrants have



At age 21, Ruth Asawa was on her way to an artistic career as a student at Black Mountain College in North Carolina. The school was a welcome contrast to the World War II internment camp where Asawa had been forced to spend part of her teen years.

PHOTO BY HAZEL LARSEN ARCHER

that dream, and it was not a militaristic dream. It was a personal one.

So, in February of 1942, on a Sunday morning at about 11 o'clock, two FBI men came, flashed their badges, and said to my father, "We're here to pick you up, Mr. Asawa." He was in the field when they came. They gave him enough time to have lunch. I remember that day vividly. My sister Chivo had made a lemon meringue pie. So he ate lunch, had a piece of pie. I ironed a white shirt. He got into the one suit he had, and then they took him. And we never saw him from 1942 until 1946. We had no idea where he was for over a year. There were rumors about South Dakota, but there were many camps set up to house the alien men. He eventually ended up in Lordsburg, New Mexico.

And then in April 1942, we were told that we were to be evacuated. So we stopped going to school to help dispose of our property. The government, through the Exclusion Act, didn't allow aliens to own property or become citizens. There was a lot of discrimination at the time. Anyway, we had to dispose of all of our farm equipment.

I think it's humorous for anybody to think that the \$20,000 that we may receive through the redress can ever compensate for the loss. [Under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, Japanese-Americans interned during World War II were promised a \$20,000 redress payment. On Sept. 29, 1989, the Senate voted to guarantee that payments will begin in October of 1990.]

As modest as our farm was, we lost two tractors, we lost two trucks, four horses, all the farm equipment. We lost everything. We didn't have household goods of any value, but what allowed my family to make a living was totally gone. All each of us could take was one

Continued on Page 21

"Two FBI men came, flashed their badges, and said to my father, 'We're here to pick you up, Mr. Asawa.'"

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For Asawa, Art and Children a Perfect Mix

Continued from Page 20

suitcase. I think my cousins took their sewing machine. And then my sister drove us—my mother, myself, two brothers and two other sisters, to the parking lot at the Santa Anita racetrack. We were given blue book value for the car, and all those cars were confiscated. My younger sister, Kimiko, was stranded in Japan, and we didn't see her until after the war.

Santa Anita was called an assembly center. It had only been a week since they had removed the horses. They cleaned the stalls out. There was horse-hair all over the walls from where the horses had rubbed themselves. And the smell of a barn was just overwhelming. The mattresses were straw covered by a bag. We were all crowded in there. We had two stalls because there were eight of us. Everyone from our area went there, and there were also people from northern California. We were there from May until September.

Every third day we would have bread or rice pudding. The idea of serving the Japanese rice with raisins, sugar and milk was such an insult. I went to school, even though it was summer. The college students all got together and organized classes so that the younger kids wouldn't lose any time. We had classes in the bleachers at the racetrack—English in one section, math in another. The Disney Studio artists—Okamoto, Ishi, and Tanaka—were also there. They taught art. The government set up a camouflage weaving area next to our classes. It was perfect because of the tall bleachers overhang. They stretched the rope vertically and people worked for 4½ cents an hour weaving these nets that were shipped to the South Pacific. If you weren't a citizen, you couldn't work on the nets. You could earn from \$9 to \$16 a month, depending on your skill level. At night we had entertainment in the bleachers. They set up a loudspeaker and had singers who would sing songs like "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" and war songs.

Toward the end of the summer, train loads of people began leaving for the camps. One group went to Heart Mountain, Wyoming, and we said goodbye to all our friends. My teacher Tom Okamoto went to Heart Mountain. In September we were ordered to go to Arkansas. When we got on the train, all the shades had to be drawn during the day. They didn't want anyone to know who was on the train. I remember seeing the Arizona desert at night. It must have taken five days to get across the country. Then we arrived at Rohwer, Arkansas, the internment camp.

They had barely finished building the barracks. Some of them didn't even have tar paper on the outside, just boards, and they leaked. It was very dusty there. The camp had been a cotton field. The water was so slimy.

and it had a lot of sulphur in it. It was the strangest kind of water and a lot of people got sick from it.

There were 42 blocks of 12 barracks with maybe six to eight units in each barrack. In the center of each block was the mess hall, the bathrooms, and the laundry room. The toilets didn't have doors. They finally put up partitions, but it was like gang showers, gang toilets. These modest and self-conscious people had never been so humiliated. We had to make a lot of adjustments.

The school was set up in block 41. White teachers came in to teach, many of them Quakers. The Quakers visited us and made sure that we were treated well.

I spent my last year of high school in the camp. Every day we had to salute the flag. We had to pledge allegiance every single day. There were some very bitter, outspoken and bright students who said "with liberty and justice for all, except us." They would say that at the end. But we had some pretty good teachers. Mrs. William Beasley, my English teacher, told me that this terrible experience should not discourage me from going on with my life. There was a Japanese artist, Michi Iida from Chicago, who taught art, and we were allowed to go sketching. There were crafts, carving, weaving, knitting, hairdressing—all these for adults. My mother knitted and had her hair done.

When we graduated from high school, we were told that we could leave and go to a college in the Midwest, but not on either coast. So I looked at college catalogs. Everybody said "get a teaching job, you have security." So I



Sculptor Ruth Asawa and architect husband Albert Lanier have tended the family hearth on Castro Street for 28 years. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

"I spent my last year of high school in the camp. Every day we had to salute the flag. We had to pledge allegiance every single day. There were some very bitter, outspoken and bright students who said 'with liberty and justice for all, except us.'"

thought that sounded good. I chose Milwaukee State Teachers College because the tuition was only \$25 a year. I wanted to go to the Art Institute of Chicago, but the tuition was just impossible at the time, and I knew that I would need to work and I would have to get a sponsor. So I wrote to Milwaukee and they gave me the name of a family that would take me as a schoolgirl. The family's name was the John O'Briens.

Mrs. O'Brien wrote me and told me she would meet me on the platform of the train station in Milwaukee, that she would be wearing a powder blue suit and come with her daughter who had blond hair and Shirley Temple curls. I rode on the train from Rohwer, and there they were on the platform. That's how we met.

I stayed with them for a year. They had two little children. I would take care of the children, clean house, serve food, help prepare food and clean up—and that was my job while going to school.

In 1945, when I was in my third year at Milwaukee and ready to practice-teach, the head of the education department called me in. He said, "Ruth, I don't think we can find you a job because we don't want to risk your life in a small town. There's a lot of prejudice out there." So that's when I decided to go off to Black Mountain, an experimental arts college that was not accredited. Some of my classmates had been there and said it was a great place to study art. I received a \$200 loan from Church

of the Crossroads in Hawaii. I was planning on going just for the summer and ended up staying for 3½ years.

Of course, to talk about Black Mountain is another story. But in 1948, when Albert and I decided to marry, we went to see two faculty members, Josef Albers and Buckminster Fuller, to talk about our future.

Albert thought I would make a good mother. I told him I wanted about six children. He said, "Gooooood, goooooood." And he told Albert, "Don't ever let her stop her work." It was very good advice, and Albert has always been very supportive.

Then Bucky told us, "The world is your oyster." And that's all he said. I didn't know what that meant at the time. But what he seemed to be saying was that each of us could shape our own world. You become the pearl, and you rub and you rub, and you make a big pearl out of your life.

We chose San Francisco to shape our world in. [We have] our children and grandchildren all living here, plus a garden, a new stove, our first new car purchase, the same husband for 40 years. . . . I think that's a pretty good oyster.

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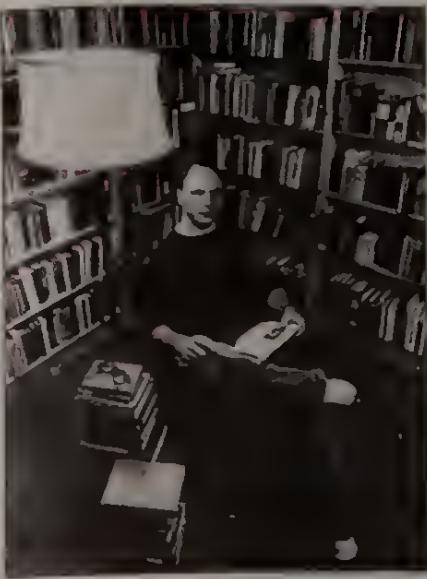
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Like his logo, Jim Carroll, owner of Carroll's Books on Church Street, enjoys a good time in a comfortable chair under a warm lamp. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

By Jane Underwood

Carroll's Books
1193 Church St.
647-3020

The logo for Carroll's Books features an overstuffed armchair and a lamp. Owner Jim Carroll, who opened his used bookstore at Church and 24th on Sept. 20, says, "I'm trying to give people the feeling they can just come in and hang out. I want this to be a community place."

Although the storefront itself is tiny, it opens into a spacious 2,500-square-foot area, with plenty of room to hold the 60,000 titles Carroll hopes to amass in the next two years (he now has close to 20,000). And for buyers and browsers alike, there's a big couch, a rocking chair, and other cozy seats to relax in.

Carroll stocks a wide range of general used books, from classics to contemporary, as well as "a smattering of oddball titles that have been left in the dust—stuff that nobody reads anymore," he says.

The stock includes fiction by San Francisco author Frank Norris, as well as novels set in San Francisco, written by Indiana author Booth Tarkington. And for good measure, Carroll throws in such "weird old things" as the book *Radio Physics*, which, he notes, "has a whole chapter on television." (Carroll was surprised to discover, he says, that there are a lot of engineers and mathematicians in Noe Valley.)

Although schooled in philosophy and psychology, Carroll, 41, has years of experience as a used book buyer for various bookstores around San Francisco—and

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STORE TREK

he's having no problem lining his shelves. "People are bringing books in faster than I can buy or trade them," he says. But kids' books and cookbooks, he adds, are so popular in Noe Valley that he's still looking for more.

Carroll's Books is open daily, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays, and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Gina's Tarot Card Readings
1195 Church St.
282-6115

Gina Goodman has given psychic readings from her 24th Street home for years, but her clientele finally got so big, she says, that she moved her business into the storefront right next door to Carroll's Books.

Goodman, 42, gives either "straight" psychic readings or "tarot card" psychic readings. "A lot of people would rather deal with cards instead of a face," she says, "but it all boils down to the same thing."

Ever since she was a little girl, Goodman says, she's been blessed with what her family priest called "a gift from God." And although she has never studied metaphysics or parapsychology, Goodman takes her work very seriously.

"People don't just come to me for fun," she says. "They come to me for guidance and direction. I look at it as helping people, not as a profit-making business. It's my career—I don't know how to do anything else except cook, wash and clean!"

Gina's Tarot Card Readings is open seven days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. (She admits to being a workaholic.) Readings cost \$20 (straight) and \$25 (tarot), and the length of a reading, says Goodman, "is for as long as the person needs" (usually 45 to 90 minutes).

The Treat Stop
1303 Castro St.
648-6822

Husband and wife team David Kerner and Betty Grandis are candy aficionados ("we sample everything") who moved to San Francisco from New York seven months ago. They opened the Treat Stop sweet shop on Oct. 2, after "searching long and hard for a neighborhood that needed a candy store."

Grandis says they opted to sell candy because "it's something we know about" and "it's a happy product."

The most unusual aspect of this full-service candy and confectionary store, located in front of the bus stop at Castro and 24th streets, is that all the goodies go for the same price. That's right, all of the 96 self-serve candy bins boast the same price tag: \$5.96 per pound, or \$1.49 per quarter pound.

Although the shop is small and oddly shaped (8 feet by 50 feet), Grandis and Kerner have filled it up with a mouth-watering melange of chocolates (Kopper's Cordials and chocolate-covered gummie bears, for example), candies (e.g., Perugina from Italy), fruits and nuts. They also showcase truffles, fudge, marzipan, toffee, creams and clusters.

In addition, the Treat Stop offers cocoas, ice cream sauces, gourmet jelly beans (try the cranberry or pina colada), chocolate novelties (tennis rackets, cameras, motorcycles, pizza, and aspirin, for starters), and "popcorn on the cob" (that's microwave popcorn).

You can satisfy your sweet tooth on Monday through Saturday, from 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays. (After Dec. 7 and through the holiday season, hours will be extended until 9 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and until 7 p.m. on Sundays.) The Treat Stop also delivers free of



Shoppers will get into lots of truffles and other exotic sweets offered by owner David Kerner at the Treat Stop, at Castro and 24th streets. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

charge in San Francisco with a \$20 minimum purchase—and they'll ship anywhere.

Oh, one last thing. Anyone who walks into the shop can help themselves to one of the store's "daily samplers." A sweet deal.

Colorcrane Arts
3957 24th St.
285-1387

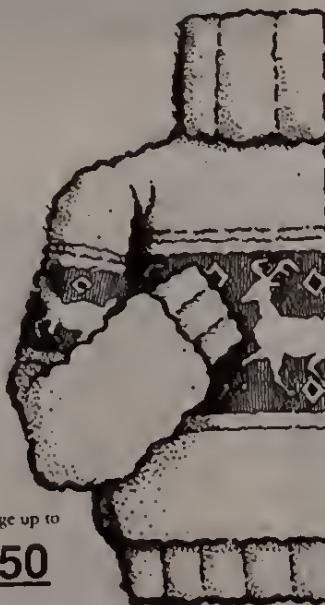
Colorcrane, across the street from Bell Market, has been a fixture on 24th Street for 17 years, and new owner Sung Kwon says he plans to keep it that way. Kwon, 49, and his wife, Chong, officially took over the store on Oct. 2. (Former owner Tom Crane went on to a new career in "neurofeedback.")

"Everything will be the same," he says, "except I'll make the store fuller, and I'm going to fix it up, inside and outside."

Sung and Chong (who has an arts background) also want to add a few "newer, more modern" items to the store's inventory. And they'll probably do some minor price adjustments, says Sung.

On all other fronts, Colorcrane will remain the same, with the same familiar faces working behind the counter, both in the copy center and the retail area. Hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. □

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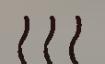
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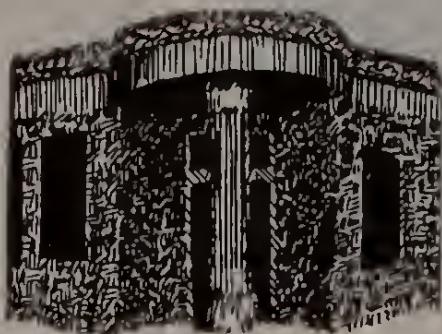
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Wind in the Willows Feeling Aftershocks

Wind in the Willows, the 17-year-old preschool on Church Street near Army, is making a plea to its friends and neighbors in Noe Valley for help in recovering from the Oct. 17 earthquake.

The quake not only caused cosmetic damage to the school building—primarily broken windows—but revealed pre-existing structural weaknesses that will require repairs costing from \$10,000 to \$15,000. Because of its limited operating budget, the school is unable to foot the bill for the renovation, so neighborhood donations would be greatly appreciated.

Tax-deductible contributions should be made out to the Wind in the Willows Building Fund and mailed to 1444-48 Church St., San Francisco, CA 94131.

Deck the Halls, Then Recycle the Holly

After you remove the last strand of tinsel from the tree this Christmas, don't throw your tree away—treecycle! The city's Recycling Program will be holding its third annual "Treecycling" event on two Sundays, Dec. 31 and Jan. 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

At designated "treecycling" locations around the city, you can exchange your Christmas tree for seedlings. The tree will be ground into chips, which will be used as garden mulch in the city's parks.

Don't forget to remove all nails and decorations from the tree. And note that trees which have been painted or flocked cannot be accepted.

For more information on drop-off points, call the San Francisco Recycling Program at 554-6193.

Quake Dreamers, Awake!

Had any earthquake dreams lately? The Earthquake Dream Study Team, a group of professional dream workers and associates, wants to know.

"The earthquake Oct. 17 offers us a unique opportunity to collect dreams from a large sample of people sharing a common traumatic experience," says Fred Olsen, coordinator of the study.

The dream study team is seeking dream accounts that are either precognitive (predicting or foreshadowing the quake in a direct or symbolic way) or reactive (in the wake of the quake). They

SHORT TAKES



Candy Forest's Singing Rainbows appear in concert at the Noe Valley Ministry Dec. 16, to raise spirits and money for earthquake relief. Back row, from left, are Johnny Niemann, Vanessa Marshall, Forest, and Peregrine Lamkin-Hong. In front are Lesa Cassidy and Marti Smith. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

are also interested in the effects of the earthquake on patterns of dreaming.

"Our dreams are often full of surprises and can be a lot of fun and a source of inspiration as well as a tool for problem-solving and healing," says Olsen. "We want to encourage people to share their dream stories as a way of building community."

Those who'd like to contribute a dream experience to the study should write the Earthquake Dream Project, The Dream House, 414 Andover St., San Francisco, CA 94110. Contributors should include the date of the dream, the dream text or experience, associations to the dream, and any other relevant information, plus name, address, and/or phone number. For details, call Fred Olsen at 648-0347.

A Call for Tutors

Buena Vista Alternative School, located at 3920A 24th Street, S.E. 94114, is

seeking Spanish-speaking volunteers for classroom assistance, as well as Spanish- and English-speaking volunteers for its tutoring program.

In Buena Vista's Spanish-immersion curriculum, children in kindergarten through fifth grade are taught subject content in Spanish, thus learning a second language as they study. The school also focuses on providing a rich multicultural experience.

If you are interested in contributing to the improvement of public schools and want to practice your Spanish at the same time, give Maya Vasquez a call at 695-5875.

The Koban That Could

Supervisor Jim Gonzalez's office announced in October that on Friday, Dec. 15, at 12 noon, dedication ceremonies will be held for the Mission Police Koban, a new mini-station to be located

at 16th and Mission streets.

The koban, which was custom-made by Robert Yick & Co., will house one police person eight hours a day (exact hours are yet to be determined.) The staffing will be shared by the San Francisco Police Department and police personnel from BART and UCSF.

As chairman of the Kohan Committee, Gonzalez oversaw a grassroots funding drive in the Mission District that raised the \$35,000 necessary for the fabrication and installation of the small kiosk. "We want to let the community participate in this victorious celebration of Mission pride," says Gonzalez.

The public is invited to come witness the koban's unveiling and dedication, which will feature a performance by the Mission High School Band.

Rainbows Sing for Earthquake Relief

Under the direction of Diamond Street resident Candy Forest, the Singing Rainbows, a group of seven kids ages 10 to 16, will present a special earthquake relief concert on Saturday, Dec. 16, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

The concert, which starts at 2:30 p.m., will feature tunes from *All in This Together*, the Singing Rainbows' first recording, scheduled to be released on the Sisters' Choice label this spring. Director Forest and singer/songwriter Nancy Schimmel will chime in on some selections, and puppeteer Nancy Fox and her Proppets will also put in an appearance.

Tickets are \$2 for children under 12 and \$5 for adults. All proceeds from the event will be donated to earthquake relief efforts. And to beef up the revenue, local merchants and residents are invited to pick a youngster and match their sales of advance tickets (call 550-7752).

"I have always made public service a part of my musical life," says Forest. "I want to pass this concept along to the youngsters, and this concert is a meaningful way to do that."

Glass, Bottles, Time and Money Needed

In an effort to stay afloat in this time of increasing insurance costs and decreasing market prices, the Bernal Heights Recycling Center will kick off a recycling fundraising drive in Noe Valley

Continued on Page 27

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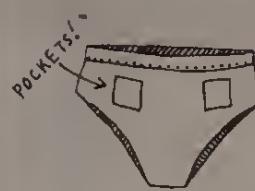
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Continued from Page 25

this month

On Sunday, Dec. 17, and Sunday, Jan. 7, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., volunteers from the center will station a mobile recycling truck at the corner of Clipper and Castro streets, near the James Lick School playground. The truck will accept glass, aluminum, plastic bottles, newspaper, and cardboard.

You can also support the recycling center by sending monetary donations, volunteering time, or by bringing your recyclables to the Bernal Heights Farmer's Market, at 100 Alemany Blvd., the center's headquarters. For more information or to offer your services, call 282-0364.

Relief for Holiday Stress

'Tis the season to be happy, healthy, prosperous and surrounded by loved ones—but if things aren't working out quite that way for you, maybe it's time to join a support group.

Those people who are feeling the stress and strain of the holiday season may want to contact the Bay Area Self-Help Clearinghouse at 921-4401, which gives referrals to more than 400 free self-help mutual support groups in the Bay Area.

According to Mara Weiss, director of the clearinghouse, loneliness and depression during the holidays are not uncommon, and things like family problems, or compulsive eating, drinking, and overspending, can be even harder to bear at this time of year.

Says Weiss, "Holiday loneliness can be relieved by joining with others to share feelings and find better ways to cope."

Mission Library Expands Services

New services targeted to the Hispanic and Asian communities are now being offered by the Mission Branch Library.

SHORT TAKES

located at 3359 24th St. The library has been awarded a grant of \$184,485 for its Recent Immigrant Services program, which was set up to increase native language materials, improve public access, and build an information and referral database for recent immigrants.

Community partners participating in the program include the Mission Reading Clinic, James Lick Middle School, Mission Neighborhood Health Centers, Mission Community College Center, and Options for Women Over Forty, among others.

The grant, one of 20 awarded throughout the state, is funded by Partnerships for Change, a program of the California State Library, supported by the Library Services and Construction Act.

Recital Hall Available for Quake Benefits

The Community Music Center, located at 544 Capp St. between 20th and 21st streets, is offering its recital hall free of charge to musicians who want to give a benefit performance for earthquake relief efforts.

The center's charming and intimate performance space, which was renovated in 1985, opens onto the courtyard of an 1880s Italianate Victorian house. The hall is suited to performances on acoustic instruments only.

It seats 125, has excellent sound quality, and houses two pianos, one a Steinway grand. The space also features a professional lighting system, a lounge for performers, and restrooms for performers and audience.

Interested parties should contact Edward Enriquez at 647-6015 for more information.

Helping the Homeless

Two local churches, the Noe Valley Ministry and Bethany United Methodist Church, are coordinating a project to provide a hot evening meal and light breakfast for 26 women and children during the two-week period from Jan. 14 to 27.

Volunteers are needed to donate, prepare and serve the food, as well as to deliver the meals to St. Anthony's Church at 3215 Army St., where the homeless will be sheltered.

Anyone who'd like to contribute to the effort should call the Noe Valley Ministry at 282-2317.

Cruisin' the Castro

Have you ever wondered how San Francisco became known as the "gay mecca" of the world? Trevor Hailey, a resident member of the gay community for the past 15 years, will be happy to give you the scoop on her walking tour of the Castro, offered daily starting at 10 a.m.

A nurse by profession and a historian by nature, Hailey is a born storyteller who imparts a wealth of local history—beginning with the 1849 Gold Rush—through lively anecdote and entertaining vignettes.

Her "Cruisin' the Castro" tour, which lasts approximately three hours, is an easy walk that avoids big hills, she says. It includes a visit to the home of the Names Project (the AIDS memorial quilt), a stop at Harvey Milk's camera shop, where gay political activism blossomed in the 1970s, and a look at the neighborhood's Victorian gems and unusual shops.

For reservations—which are a must—

call Hailey at 550-8110. (The best time to call is between 5 and 8 p.m.) The cost is \$25 per person, which includes lunch at the Patio Cafe on Castro Street.

Fiesta Goes to Mexico

Anna Boothe, a Noe Valley writer with a vacation home in San Miguel, will conduct her sixth annual group tour to Mexico on Feb. 10 to 17, 1990.

The excursion, sponsored by Fiesta Tours, the business Boothe runs out of her home on Clipper Street, will include five days in San Miguel, an art and music center distinguished by its authentic colonial architecture, and three days in Guanajuato, the birthplace of artist Diego Rivera. Both towns are located in the mountains near Mexico City.

"Visiting these towns is like being dropped into history," Boothe says. "There are no neon lights, just wonderful buildings which have been preserved for hundreds of years."

The tour, which includes land transportation, hotels, two meals a day, local tours, and a day trip to Taboada (a desert spa outside San Miguel) costs \$600 for single and \$500 for double occupancy, plus airfare. For more information, call 648-3352 or write Fiesta Tours, 660 Clipper St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

Michele Lynn, Addie Lanier, and Jane Underwood contributed to the above short takes.



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NEON VALLEY: Herb's Fine Foods, 24th Street's oldest established greasy spoon, has gone neon for the '90s by installing a 12-foot multi-colored neon sign, the creation of Lynda Najarian of the Business Neon Company.

When the sign went up last month, there in big bold letters were the words: "HERB'S FINE FDOOS" (yes, *FDOOS*).

According to Herb's owner and head chef Sam Kawas, "At first, Lynda didn't want to change it because she thought it would draw attention, but I insisted that it had to be changed. You know for \$1,200 plus permit, everything should be spelled right, don't you think?" Sounds reasonable, Sam.

Sam was also surprised to learn that he had been illuminating the word "NEPO" to pedestrians coming toward his restaurant from the west. (Those walking east saw "OPEN.") This is especially confusing, since Herb's is open only for breakfast and lunch. It's closed at night when the neon glows.

Sam says the only reason he put the dang sign up was because the Famous Nails awning next door blocked the view of his non-neon Herb's sign, which has been a fixture since 1945. (By the way, does anybody know what the original Herb's last name was?)

• • •

MOVING RIGHT ALONG: Meanwhile, Famous Nails has relocated its fluorescent-pink salon from upstairs above Herb's (second floor of the Elvira Building at 24th and Noe) down to street level at 4010 24th St., a half block away.

Nailed by the move was none other than Panos' Restaurant because the salon posted a sign on its old premises referring all patrons to 4001 24th rather than 4010. Panos' boss John Gianaras doesn't mind, though, and has been directing the maniacs to the right spot.

Back at the Elvira, building owner Dr. Michael McFadden is remodeling the second floor to return it to residential use, he says.

He also says he's entertaining the notion of renting out the corner storefront on the ground floor, which has been vacant for months (and possibly years). "I'm not sure who we'll be renting to," says the doc, "but a coffee store from

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and now for the RUMORS behind the news



Get it right: Herb's new neon signage has provided much food for thought, and is still open to interpretation. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

West Portal is very interested, as well as a bank, a diet center, and an antique store, and I think I prefer the latter."

Does all this mean that the Famous Nails' awning will be coming down? If so, then maybe Herb's can return the neon sign.

• • •

IN NON-NEON DEVELOPMENTS: It may be curtains for Everett Shades at the shop's current 4018 24th St. location (between Noe and Castro). According to Richard and Valerie Everett, who have been in the window-covering business on 24th Street for the past 27 years and at the present location for almost 16 years, the owner of the property will only renew Everett's lease on a month-to-month basis. The owner has also put the building on the market for a whopping \$850,000. The Everetts should have plenty of time to search for a new place to hang their blinds.

As most of you probably already know,

Quiche and Carry across the street has closed. What you may not know is that the business was bought by the Noe Valley Deli, which has been saying "Everything on it?" at 4015 24th St. since 1979. The deli will move its restaurant operation three doors down the street to Quiche and Carry's spot this month.

"We got a very good lease from the owner," claims Deli owner Karim Balat. "And we are leaving a place where our lease was not so good, so we are very happy."

It will be interesting to see what will occupy the space vacated by the sandwich-makers, especially since it is zoned for restaurant use. Could Burger King or McDonald's be on the way? Fat chance. Look for a Chinese restaurant instead.

• • •

IN OTHER FDOOS NEWS: The eighth-grade honors students in Mike Beltran's social studies class at James Lick School are eating their way through the fall

semester.

While teaching a segment about native Americans, Mike and his aide, Inez Scourkes, came up with the idea to have the class prepare an authentic Indian meal. They settled on "Fiery Chili Soup," a dish prepared by the Zuni Indians, who have long inhabited the area around what is now Santa Fe, N.M.

With the help of Diamond Heights Safeway Manager Lawrence Dillard and Jim Jumper, the meat department manager, the students obtained the necessary ingredients—boned and cubed lamb, hominy, chili, garlic, onions, parsley, scallions and assorted herbs and spices—and made enough to feed the whole class and staff. It was "too good," according to reliable sources.

Evidently, the way to a student's mind is through his or her stomach, because the class decided to continue its investigation of American colonial life by making Boston brown bread with scrapple (a cornmeal mush with sausage mixed in, cooled overnight, sliced, and then fried and eaten with plenty of maple syrup). At this rate, the kids may wind up taking weight-loss classes next semester.

While we're on the subject of food, it was Church Street resident Felicia Valmonte who won the Drewes Market \$150 "Freezer Package" drawing last month. Those of you who stuffed dozens of entry blanks in the ballot box will be gratified to know that Felicia won the year's supply of chicken and beef by entering her name just once.

• • •

SINCE WE'RE NEIGHBORS DEPARTMENT: The East & West of Castro Club recently donated \$1,000 to the city's Rec and Park Department to be put toward improvements at Noe Courts, the park at 24th and Douglass streets. (See story, page 14.) Fred Methner, the club's secretary and Noe Valley's Mr. Fix-it, also pledged another \$1,000 to come out of his own pocket. Thanks, Fred.

The Friends of Noe Valley has organized a Dec. 5 meeting between the developers and the neighbors of a large housing project (over 20 units) that is scheduled to be built in the vacant lot

Continued on Page 30



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RUMORS

Continued from Page 29

where Homestead meets 25th Street.

According to Friends Planning Committee Chair John Stalp, the group will try to convince the developers to rework their "cigar-hox" design, reduce heights to avoid shadows, and permit nearby residents to have input into the design process.

We're sorry to hear that Friends of Noe Valley President Jacques Bertrand is moving away (to Boulder Creek, near Santa Cruz). Jacques has been a bundle of energy, giving tirelessly to community causes, and he will be missed by Friends and neighbors alike.

A rumor that just won't go away is that the merchants out on Church Street are talking about forming an association to promote their mutual interests and lure

shoppers away from 24th Street. To those of you who ask why, I say why not? My only question is why would such a movement be hush-hush.



WHAT'S THE DEAL on those "Have a Noe Noel" sweatshirts hanging in the window of Thrifty drugstore? Great idea, but why do they picture a view of downtown San Francisco from Alamo Square?



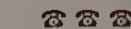
TOP OF THE POPS: Vince DiCicco of Streetlight Records reports that everyone seems to be asking for an album called *O Samba*, a collection of contemporary Brazilian music (featuring a number of Brazilian artists) produced by David Byrne of the Talking Heads.

Jon Arnold over at Aquarius Records agrees: "The international stuff, like contemporary Brazilian, Caribbean and African, is moving very well."

On the video screen, *Batman* is definitely the pick of the pack. Over at National Video, there is also high demand for *Roger Rabbit*. Video Wave says that when *Batman* is out, people ask for *Earth Girls Are Easy*. But the consensus at Blockbuster Video is that December's winner will be Bill Murray's *Scrooge*.

Noe Valeron Arnistead Maupin authored the most asked-for fiction title at Cover to Cover bookstore (*Sure of You*), and even appeared there on Nov. 18 to autograph copies for his fans. He signed exactly 72 copies, but could have signed more. (That's all that Cover to Cover had on hand at the time.)

As for non-fiction, Cover to Cover reports that people are requesting the *Open Hand Cookbook*, which features a collection of recipes by 63 of California's top chefs. A share of the proceeds from sales of the book will go to Project Open Hand, which serves daily meals to people with AIDS.



HELLO 1990: Here's wishing you and yours a merry Christmas and a happy new year. In these "peace on earth" days, I leave you with the words of Nobel Prize-winner Elie Wiesel: "Mankind must remember that peace is not God's gift to his creatures. Peace is our gift to each other."

Ciao for now, and see you next year. □



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The Gift

Christmas is always a happy season of family, of celebrations, of giving and receiving, but for me there is one Christmas memory that stands out above the rest. In the late '40s, my husband Leo and I were a young married couple with small children. As with most marriages, ours included times of plenty, when Christmas was affordable, but also difficult periods when unnecessary purchases had



to be eliminated—and out of such a lean year came one of my warmest memories.

To ease the financial strain that year, Leo and I had sensibly agreed to skip the usual exchange of presents between the two of us, and to concentrate on providing gifts for our small sons, ages 3 and 5. I had just purchased the last item on our short shopping list and was headed home, when in passing the window of a ladies' apparel shop, I was struck by a sale sign attached to a stylish mannequin. She was wearing a beautiful coat of thick dark brown fur called mouton (which is lambskin processed, dyed, and clipped to resemble sheared beaver). My favorite fur. The price had been slashed from \$300 to \$150 (that would be \$1,500 today), so I couldn't resist going inside to try it on.

When I looked in the tall mirror's reflection and saw how perfectly the coat fit, how stunning it looked, I was tempted. But when the salesman brought out the matching hat and put it on my head saying, "It was made for you," I was sold. When I asked him if I could make a small deposit, then pay off the balance over a long period of time, he acquiesced, saying that a few dollars would hold it.

Upon returning home loaded with packages for the children, I felt the need to confess my unwise deed to my husband, lamenting that it must have been a case of temporary insanity. Leo listened patiently to the details, but we decided to wait and discuss it further after the holidays.

On Christmas morning our little boys were awake at dawn, eagerly ripping into the wrappings of their presents as we watched the joyful expressions on their little faces. Then, in the calm that followed the opening of their last gifts, Leo lit a large square box and placed it in front of me. Speechlessly I opened the lid, folded back the tissue lining, and gazed in amazement at the soft brown pelage of the mouton coat that I had so admired. Looking up mistily, I apologized to my husband, "I have nothing for you," but it didn't seem to matter, for I saw my happiness reflected in his eyes.

Leo never told me how he managed, in our circumstances, to pay for this extravagant acquisition. Unlike the hero in the O'Henry story, he did not own a watch that he could pawn.

Over the years I wore the coat with love and pride, until it became slightly faded over the shoulders. In the '60s and '70s during the hippy era, when ratty-looking fur coats were "in," a few of our nieces looked at my coat with longing, but I could not part with it.

To wear the fur of animals was once perfectly acceptable. It was high fashion, a status symbol. Although that is no longer true, I still have my coat (which could now use a slight application of Grecian Formula), and I still wear it occasionally—but warily—for I have an irrational fear of being spray-painted by an over-zealous animal rights activist. (Let he who has never eaten a lamb chop cast the first stone.)

I love that coat, as well as the man who gave it to me, and I never fail to be moved by the memory of that Christmas morning. □

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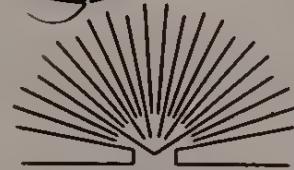
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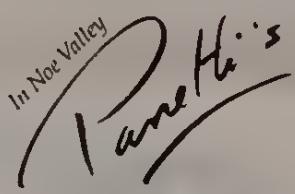
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Santa Couldn't Miss It

The huge holiday greeting, airport runway lighting, and a blizzard of snowflakes on this 360 Eureka St. homestead made it a standout during last year's holiday season. Let's hope for a rerun this year. PHOTO BY ED BURYN


Pam H.'s
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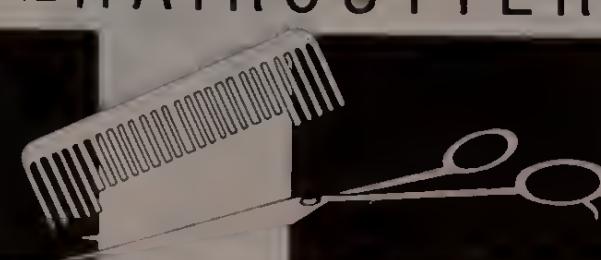
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From the pedestrian walkway across Portola, our photographer caught a Christmas tree, in a Grand View window at the top of 23rd Street, looking down upon Noe Valley and the Bay beyond. PHOTO BY ED BURYN



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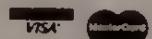
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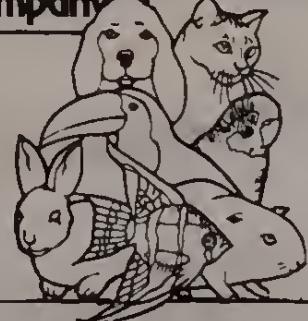
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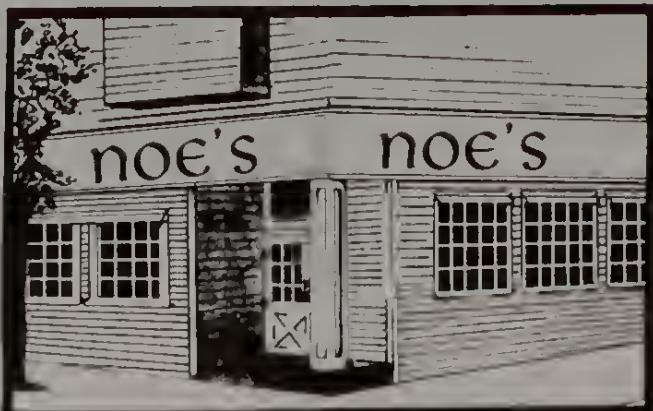
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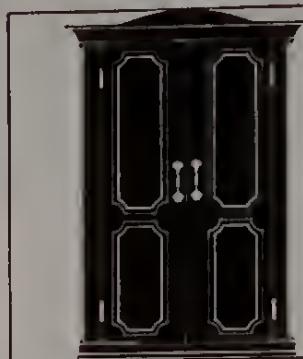
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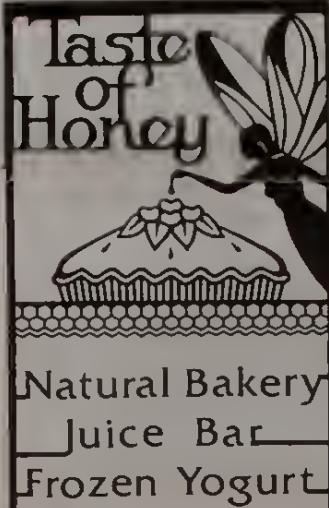
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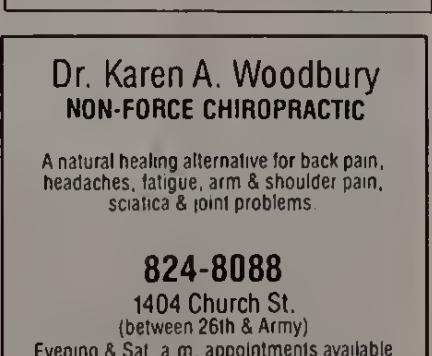
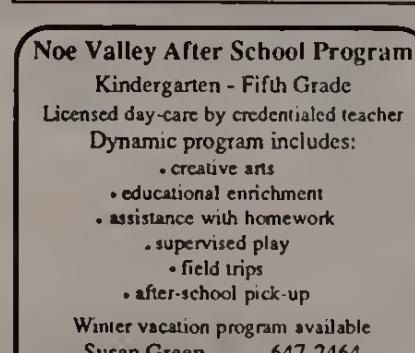
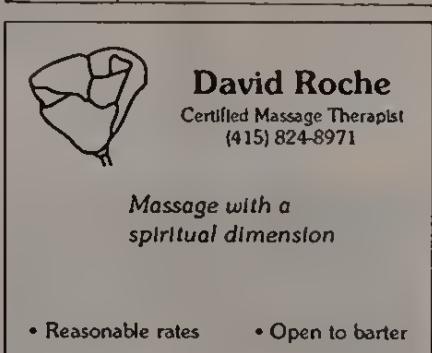
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Poetry WANTED: The Noe Valley Voice welcomes submissions of poetry from residents of Noe Valley, Eureka Valley (the Castro), Diamond Heights, the Mission and Glen Park neighborhoods. Poems should be related to neighborhood themes, people or places. Payment: \$10 to \$40 per poem, upon publication. Send submissions with self-addressed, stamped envelope (and a phone number, please) to the Noe Valley Voice, c/o June Underwood, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114

How to Use Voice Class Ads

The rate for classified advertising in the Noe Valley Voice is 25¢ a word. Just type or print your copy, multiply the number of words by 25¢, enclose a check or money order for the full amount, and mail it to us by the 20th of the month preceding the month of issue. Our address is 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Note: The next issue will appear Feb. 1, 1990. Please mail your ad and check—made payable to the Noe Valley Voice—so that we receive it by Jan. 20. Sorry, but we are unable to take phone or drop-in orders.

Also note: We cannot accept payment for insertions in more than six issues. Receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. □

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CALENDAR

DEC. 1-FEB. 28: Local artist Sharron Evans will display her whimsical ETCHINGS. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 285-2788.

DEC. 4: People who are HIV-positive are invited to enroll in the San Francisco AIDS Alternative Healing Project, a 12-week research and treatment program sponsored by Duan Yin Healing Arts Center, 1748 Market St. 861-4964.

DEC. 5: Hungarian-born witch ZSUZSANUA BUDAPEST will sign and read from her new book, *The Grandmother of Time*. 7:30 pm. Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia St. 821-4675.

DEC. 5-18 & DEC. 29-JAN. 21: Artist Kit Cameron exhibits her MIRACULOUS IRDENS and toasters at Rami's Catte, 1361 Church St. Call 641-0678 or 821-4117 for more information.

DEC. 7: The GUATEMALA News and Information Bureau presents two activists from Guatemala's student and union movements, Julio Lopez Maldonado and Luis Arturo Romero, speaking about the recent wave of repression and their work for human rights. 7:30 pm. New College, 777 Valencia St. 835-0810.

DEC. 7-9: Students from the San Francisco School of the Arts will give a DANCE performance, "Breathing," as part of a series of works offered by Multi-Image Showcase. 8:30 pm. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St. 621-7797.

DEC. 8: "Hats Off to Hospice" is a BLACK-TIE GALA featuring cabaret entertainment to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the hospice programs offered by VNH (Visiting Nurses and Hospice of San Francisco). 7 pm. Marriott Hotel, 777 Market St. 923-3310.

DEC. 9: Arturo Arias, twice winner of the Casa de las Americas Award, will read in Spanish and in English from his new novel, *Jaguar en llamas*, a darkly humorous treatment of GUATEMALAN HISTORY. 8 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 282-9246.

DEC. 9: New merchandise, secondhand items, crafts and baked goods will be offered at the Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School's HOLIDAY GARAGE SALE. 10 am-4 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 285-5208.

DEC. 9 & 10: Many Noe Valley WEAVERS will exhibit their work at the Fort Mason Weavers' Annual Holiday Sale. 10 am-6 pm. Fort Mason Art Center, Building B, Marina Blvd. at Laguna St. 822-8816.

DEC. 9 & 10: Bay Area YOUTH OPERA performs "The Bishop's Horse," an intercultural, intergenerational opera set in 13th-century France. 3 & 4:30 pm. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St. 431-2027.

DEC. 9, 10, 16 & 17: The One Stop Party Shop invites young and old to stop by for Christmas CARDING and spiced cider (and a visit with Santa on Dec. 10 and 17). 6-8 pm. 1600 Church St.

DEC. 9, 10, 16 & 17: The Women's Building has moved its annual ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR from its earthquake-damaged building on 18th Street to Pier 2 at Fort Mason, but the event will feature the largest assortment of gift items, ranging from jewelry, sculpture, ceramics, woodwork, photographs and handmade clothing to musical instruments, in its 11-year history. The fair will also feature entertainment by Faith Winthrop, Faye Carol, Mimi Fox, Jessica Williams, Kito Gamble, Conjunto Cespedes, and Danny Williams, among others.

DECEMBER 1989

DEC. 8 & 9: Carol Negro will direct the San Francisco CHILDREN'S CHORUS in Hans Christian Andersen's "The Little Match Girl." 7 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

DEC. 8 & 9: A Central American CRAFTS FAIR will feature handmade gifts, ethnic food and music. 10 am-4 pm. Good Samaritan Community Center, 1292 Potrero Ave. 824-3500.

DEC. 8-22: Functional pottery and decorative ceramics will be available at the Clay Studio's HOLIDAY SALE. Sat. & Sun., 10 am-5 pm. Wed., Fri., 10 am-9 pm. 52 Julian St. 431-6296.

DEC. 9: Celebrate CHANUKAH with song and storytelling performed by Corey Fischer and Naomi Newman, of the Traveling Jewish Theater, and comedian/singer Rabbi Blues. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

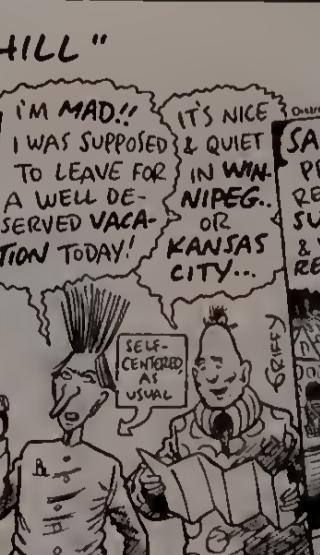
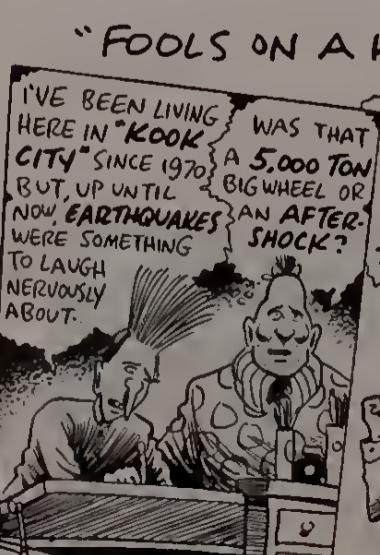
DEC. 9-31: The Pickle Family CIRCUS brings its magic back to San Francisco in the 1989 Holiday Show Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, Bay & Lyon sts. Call 826-5678 for specific times and dates.

DEC. 10: Conductor Urs Steiner presents a program of works by Handel, Scarlatti and Mozart, performed by the Community Music Center ORCHESTRA. 4 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

DEC. 11: The Diamond Senior Center's CHRISTMAS DANCE will feature the music of Walter Traverso, and a luncheon before the dance. 1-3 pm. 117 Diamond St. 863-3507.

DEC. 11: Natural scientist, agronomist and development economist Susanna Hecht joins critic and journalist Alexander Cockburn to discuss their narrative history, "The Fate of the FOREST Developers, Destroyers and Defenders of the Amazon." 7:30 pm. New College, 777 Valencia St. For information call Modern Times Bookstore, 282-9246.

"FOOLS ON A HILL"



BILL GRIFFITH

DEC. 23: The neighborhood is invited to the Noe Valley Ministry's Tree Trimming and Decoration PARTY. 6 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

DEC. 24: The Noe Valley Ministry's Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE begins at 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

DEC. 29: Guitarist JOHN FAHEY shares the spotlight with Noe Valley Music's Dale Miller in a special between-holidays concert. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

DEC. 31: CISPES, the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, and NICCA, the Nicaraguan Center for Community Action, present the second annual Red, Black and White Ball. 9 pm-2 am. Longshoreman's Hall, 400 North Point. Call 648-8222 or 644-3636 for information.

DEC. 31 & JAN. 7: The San Francisco Recycling Program holds its third annual "TRECYCLING," offering residents an opportunity to exchange their withered Christmas trees for seedlings. 10 am-4 pm. For drop-off locations, call 554-6193.



Rabbi Blues sprinkles mishugas on the Noe Valley Music Series keyboard Dec. 16, just in time for Chanukah.

JANUARY 1990

JAN. 13: KASSIN'S ALL-STARS use Latin, Caribbean, Chinese, jazz and funk in a special concert. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

JAN. 17: Infant-toddler LAPSITS continue every Wednesday at 7 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 285-2788.

JAN. 20: Virtuoso bass player Michael Manring joins guitar wizard PEPPINO D'AGOSTINO for an evening of solos and duets. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

JAN. 30: The SPCA brings live animals to the Noe Valley Library. 2:30 pm for children 3-5, 3 pm for ages 6 and older. 451 Jersey St. 285-2788.

The Scoop on CALENDAR

Please send calendar items before the 15th day of the month preceding the month of issue to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley neighborhood events receiving priority. Note: The *Voice* staff is on vacation until January, so our next issue will appear Feb. 1, 1990. The deadline for February calendar items is Jan. 15.